



PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Smc

4/15/04

In re application of

Docket No: Q67488

Toshihide KURIYAMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/998,242

Group Art Unit: 2681

Confirmation No.: 5484

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: December 3, 2001

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APR 12 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H03-280625, published
December 11, 1991.

2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-507781, published
June 20, 2000.

3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H11-177485, published
July 2, 1999.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/998,242

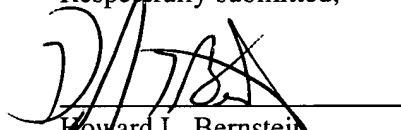
(whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated January 28, 2004 and an English Translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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Sheet

1

of

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Application Number	09/998,242
Confirmation Number	5484
Filing Date	December 03, 2001
First Named Inventor	Toshihide KURIYAMA
Art Unit	2681
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	Q67488

**Examiner
Initials***

**Cite
No.¹**

Country
Code³Number⁴Kind Code⁵
(if known)**Publication Date**
MM-DD-YYYY

Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document

Translation⁶

JP

H03-280625

12-11-1991

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JP

2000-507781

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No

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07-02-1999

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Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.

Translation⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.